

The Dead Horse

September 2010

DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park



Verde River Days AZ's Last Free Flowing River

Starting on September 25th, the Verde River Days will launch its 22nd annual event. Governor Rose Mofford declared the last Saturday of September as the official date to hold Verde River Days, 22 years ago. In the beginning (due to some legal issues that came up during one of the events) Dead Horse Ranch/Arizona State Parks could not be one of the main sponsors. So, the Chamber of Commerce, the Verde Valley Newspapers, and many other agencies, help sponsor it, as well as DHRSP. The purpose is to educate the public on the tremendous value of the "Verde River: the last free flowing river in Arizona." During the Verde River Days at DHRSP; we have a variety of hikes, tours, Plein Air Artist "Paint Out", educational booths, 40+ nature-based exhibits, sandcastle building, hands-on-activities, great food from local vendors, canoe rides, duck races, fishing clinic (lagoons are loaded with hundreds of catfish), informative exhibits on the Verde's riparian habitat, as well as guest speakers and entertainment of all kinds. It is a free event for the public on Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Those "Dam" Beavers!



As most of you know, beavers are prevalent in and around the waterways of DHRSP. Most of you probably aren't aware that the DHR Rangers compete with them on a daily basis at the outflow of the 3rd fishing lagoon. It's an ongoing "battle" of sorts says, Ranger Tony Viotti. Every night DHRSP beavers fill the outflow with cattails, raising the lagoon water level several inches in just one night. Increased water levels and an impeded water flow can alter PH levels and decrease O2 levels within the lagoons, if not monitored. No worries at this point. The beavers are captured and safely extradited by Ranger Tony. They are then released a little further down the Verde River for a mini vacation. After a few tries the beavers will usually move on to another "Dam" location!

story by Ranger Eric, photos by Ranger Randy



Volunteer Coordinator Ranger Eric's Notes



This picture of Jerry and Kay was taken several years ago and was attached to their original resume' sent to our park.

A Tribute to Kay Watters: November 29, 1954 - April 23, 2010

We were very grateful to have Jerry Watters return to DHRSP this summer. Jerry was a former Fleet Manager with the AZ Department of Transportation, and his mechanical aptitude provided us with much needed assistance. Throughout his stay, he routinely fixed and maintained our overly used lawn mowers, serviced our park vehicles, and cleaned our restrooms. Jerry's return to Dead Horse Ranch flooded him with mixed emotions, as he wasn't able to make the trip with his former wife Kay. She had passed away on April 23, 2010 after an unfortunate bout with cancer. Almost every evening Jerry made a trip into Coopers Hawk Campground to watch the setting sun. It was his and Kay's special time together when they hosted here years ago.

One day while we were cleaning restrooms, he told me, "We always liked the sunsets here. I often come up here trying to get that perfect photo of a sunset." But, I knew better, he came here to talk with Kay. Each sunset brought them a magic moment, a lasting memory, a time to reflect and be thankful for the day just shared. Kay's smile and demeanor was as warm and magical as any setting sun and it is my belief that Jerry was able to see

that in the light each evening, shining back upon him. Our hats go off to Jerry as he makes his way to a new adventure along the coast of Maine. I'm sure that Kay's spirit will softly speak with him once again in the sunset, wind, and timeless ocean waves. I believe she will probably whisper to him, "Things are often darkest before the dawn, but our sun will rise again. There will be a new tomorrow Jerry. Just you wait and see! I love you!! Kay".

story by Eric, poem by Mary Elizabeth Frye, 1932, sunset photo by Carolyn Meehan



Great Blue Herons at Lagoons



photo by Linda Hauk, PR II

New Park Benches

Bird watchers and hikers now have two new benches along Quail wash. Dave Nelson donated them in memory of his wife, Linda, who had passed away. He tells us that she loved birds and especially loved DHRSP. Dave & Linda Nelson also worked on the birding festival. Dave wanted the benches for people to be able to sit and watch the birds. It was a volunteer project: Bob Ackey and Norm Hephner assembled the benches. Randy Miller cleared the area and installed the benches. A special "thank you!"

Linda Nelson was a strong supporter and member of the VVBNF committee. She has been missed. Dave has also volunteered for us. Linda was our volunteer coordinator. The benches are a fitting memorial and we thank Dave & Randy, Bob & Norma for their contributions.



photo by Nan Hephner, story by Linda Hauk



Volunteer News Coming & Goings

- * Art & Patricia Enockson, Coopers Hawk, Sept 1st
- * Lynn Holland, Red Tail Hawk, Sept 1st
- John & Pat Pauly, Cabin Hosts, Sept 3rd
- * Gordon & Betty Lawrick, Quail Loop #40, Sept 15th
- * John & MaryLou Anderson, leaving Aug 31st, going home to Lake Havasu, AZ
- * Bob & Toni Mann, leaving Sept 1st, going back to their home in Surprise, AZ.

Dates to Remember

September

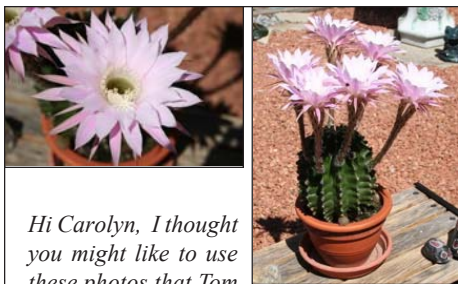
- 3 - Volunteer Meeting, Friday, 10 am
- 17 - Volunteer Meeting, Friday 10 am
- 25/26 - VERDE RIVER DAYS!!!!

October

- 1 - Volunteer Meeting, Friday, 10 am

September MileStones

- 1-Wes & Carolyn Scott (2001)
- 2-James Dunn
- 4-Keith Mangels
- 11-Gordon Lawrick
- 19-Tom and Anne Howe (1964)
- 21-Patrick Rhoads
- 22-Mr and Mrs Bob Forrest (1956)
- 22-Bud Jenkins
- 23-Bob & Ann Nason
- 23-Jerry Watters
- 24-Bill LaFleur
- 25-Emmo Oltmanns
- 27-John & Wanda Ward (1969)
- 28-George Christianson



Hi Carolyn, I thought you might like to use these photos that Tom took in an upcoming issue of the DHR newsletter. They are photos of a cactus plant I have. We have been having a very hot humid summer this year and this cactus has had over 14 blooms. When I took the photo it had 6. Just wanted folks to know that Canada can get very hot weather and we are not cold all the time.

Anne & Tom Howe

Please pass onto Les that some of the computer terms in Alaska mean more to me than the official ones. Ha! And get going soon, Randy.

Sue Neal



Rabbit...
Yum!



Here are a few pics of an unusual show I saw today. I came upon this guy who had a young cottontail by the nose and was obviously planning to ingest it. I thought, "You are not little, but that rabbit is too big for you." I didn't get too close at first, because I didn't want him to abandon it. I

thought I would let him get it half in, then get close up shots. He worked, struggled, dragged, repositioned and persevered for quite some time. Just as he was finally collapsing the forelegs and I was beginning to think he would prove me wrong, he must have decided it was too much and reversed. After it was out, he wiggled, repeatedly shook his head and yawned resetting his jaw. He then appeared to reevaluate and consider another attempt, but then abandoned it. I am guessing he realized he wasted his venom that time.

Ranger Tony Viotti

Memories of Days Gone By



Justin Swiger, Les Bovee, David Gross, Randy Victory

Norm and I visited Maryan Pharo and Jim Harris at their home on Granby Lake, Colorado. They are doing fine, visiting doctors and getting all set for their return to Dead Horse. We hiked in our beloved pine covered Rockies; went to a bead and fabric festival in Fairplay (an old mining town); and made a trip to Central City (a gambling town in Colorado where I lost \$1.25 and Jim won \$2). It was cool and mostly sunny at nearly 9,000 feet in elevation, which was a welcome break from the heat at 6,000 feet. See y'all soon! Nan



(above) Horseback riding has picked up along with visitation to the park. Former Manager Les Bovee said, "March and April are showing better visitation than February, partly thanks to the volunteers who have been manning booths at local stores to spread the word about the park. (below)



article & photos above by Nan Hephner

Nan's Notes:

Reports from
Editor Nan on
the road...

